LAVENDER®

Since 1995

The 2018 Spring Love & Marriage Issue

Dark and Decadent Designs with Samantha Rei

The Hutton House Experience

Rainbow Romance: Love Stories and Wedding Recaps

596 LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
MINNESOTA'S GLBT MAGAZINE
MARCH 29-APRIL 11, 2018

NEW! WE'RE ON issuu. READ US ONLINE AND IN THE APP!

JOIN 86K OF US ON TWITTER @BIGGAYNEWS

NEXT LAVENDER'S FIRST THURSDAY: 4/5/18 SMITH & PORTER RESTAURANT + BAR

LARSMONT
COTTAGES ON LAKE SUPERIOR

GRAND
SUPERIOR
ON LAKE SUPERIOR

CARIBOU HIGHLANDS

ODYSSEYRESORTS.COM/WEDDINGS

GORGEOUS FLOORING, KITCHEN AND BATH REMODELING

Call to schedule before May 31st, 2018 and

Save Up To $1,000

with FREE Installation & Furniture Moving!*

FREE Tile or Glass Backsplash with Every Kitchen Remodel!*

*Mention this ad when calling. Some restrictions apply, please call for details. Not valid with any other offer or discount. Offer valid through May 31st, 2018.

HARDWOOD · CARPET · VINYL · TILE

We Beat Home Depot*, Empire*, Lowe's* and all others!

Shaw FLOORS · MOHAWK · NOVALIS INNOVATIVE FLOORING · DIXIE HOME · Karastan · DURA CERAMIC by Congoleum

Call or text owner Keith Lindquist anytime for a personal, in-home consultation. With over 17 years of design experience, he will personally manage your flooring project from start to finish.

Custom FLOOR

Call or Text Keith at 612-363-7490. CUSTOMFLOORMN.COM

CONTENTS

LAVENDER

FEATURE: SPRING LOVE & MARRIAGE

12: Wedding Fashion With Samantha Rei
18: The Hutton House
22: Our Wedding Story: Joe & Adam
28: Our Wedding Story: Emi & Renata
34: Honeymoon: 8 Reasons to Do the Danube
36: Real Weddings

Page 12: Photo by Alex Butterfield, Page 18: Photo by Perry James Photography, Page 28: Photo by Ashley Berry Photography

OUR LAVENDER

7 From the Editor
11 A Word in Edgewise

OUR RESOURCES

41 The Network
42 Community Connection

ONLINE

Online Magazine

Prizes

LavenderMagazine.com

Available on www.LavenderMagazine.com: Our Online Magazine, read it on your computer, iPad, iPhone, or DROID. Prizes, register to win. Exclusive content only online, not in print.

ON THE COVER

Joe Livingston and Adam Hirsch are just one of the happy couples featured in the Spring Love & Marriage issue.
Photo by Tim Davis, Consolidated Photo

WAXING THE CITY
50% off Any service at your first visit
9 Twin Cities Locations
www.WAXINGTHECITY.com

Divorce Mediation with
Steve Burns, Ph.D.
Civil separations with reasonable solutions for the LGBT Community going through divorce.
By appointment 612-990-0649
Northland Theraphy Center
Convenient Midway Location
2324 University Ave. W., Stuite 100

mint
MINT ORTHODONTICS
Geoff Sudit DDS, MS
Get the perfect smile you've always wanted.
Plus
- Invisalign treatment
- Fewer office visits
- Customizable payment plans
612.509.6468
MintOrtho.com

Origins Eye Clinic
For Health. For Vision. For Life.
A 100% GLBT-owned eye clinic with a doctor you can trust for ALL your eye care needs.
Dr. David Bane
612-869-1333 • originseyeclinic.com
6601 Lyndale Ave S, Suite #160 • Richfield, MN 55423

Cupcakes • Cakes • Sweet Treats
Amy's Cupcake Shoppe
701 Mainstreet, Hopkins
amy@amyscupcakeshoppe.com • 952-479-7516

HABITATION™
Furnishing + Design
Zetland Sofa
Go ahead – Touch it!
952.426.3548 | HABITATIONDESIGN.COM
4317 EXCELSIOR BLVD | ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416
VISIT OUR RETAIL STORE: M, W, Th, F & Sat 10am-7pm. Sun 12-5pm. Closed on Tuesdays

TACORI
EXCLUSIVELY AT
ARTHUR'S JEWELERS
TACORI EVENT APRIL 19-21
1717 LEXINGTON AVE N, ROSEVILLE MN

LAVENDER®

Volume 23, Issue 596 • March 29-April 11, 2018

Editorial

Editorial Director Andy Lien 612-436-4671
Managing Editor Chris Tarbox 612-436-4692
Editorial Assistants Linda Raines 612-436-4660, Kassidy Tarala
Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner
Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer
Contributors Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Jennifer Parello, Randy Stern, John Townsend, Bradley Traynor, Carla Waldemar

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690
Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
Account Executive
Nathan Johnson 612-436-4695
Richard Kranz 612-436-4675
Advertising Associate: George Holdgrafer
Sales & Event Administration: Linda Raines 612-436-4660
Casey Ubel 612-436-4660
Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699
National Sales Representatives
Motivate Media 858-272-9023
NEMA 612-436-4698
Rivendell Media 212-242-6863

Creative

Creative Director Hubert Bonnet 612-436-4678
Graphic Designer Mike Hnida 612-436-4679
Photographer Sophia Hantzes
Lavender Studios Hubert Bonnet, Mike Hnida

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.
President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665
Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666
Chief Financial Officer Mary Lauer 612-436-4664
Distribution Manager/Administrative Assistant Casey Ubel 612-436-4660
Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford
Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013), Tim Campbell (1939-2015)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435; or e-mail <editor@lavendermagazine.com>.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

Lavender Media, Inc.
7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435
612-436-4660 **Office**
612-436-4685 **Fax**
612-436-4660 **Subscriptions/Distribution**
612-436-4660 **Lavender Advertising**
612-436-4698 **NEMA Advertising**

LAVENDER MAGAZINE.COM
LavenderMagazine.com

BIG GAY NEWS .COM
BigGayNews.com

NEMA

mmpa
Lavender 2016 Magazine of the Year

Printer of Lavender
Schumann Printers, Inc.
920-484-3348

Entire contents copyright 2018. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender® Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender® Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.

FROM THE EDITOR | BY CHRIS TARBOX

We've Got A Thing That's Called Rainbow Love

Ahh, spring. My favorite season of the year. The birds are chirping; the sun is shining; the snow is melting, except when it's not because this is Minnesota we're talking about; and the pollen from every conceivable plant attacks my sinuses with gusto. I love spring. Good times.

And spring is largely symbolic as a period of rebirth, renewal, and new beginnings, and what better way to take advantage of that symbolism than celebrating the joys of love and marriage?

For our Spring 2018 Love & Marriage issue, we highlight the mirthful merriment of matrimony with a look at the gorgeously unconventional fashion of Minneapolis designer Samantha Rei, a gander at the high-class wedding and event venue known as The Hutton House, a peek at eight reasons why the delectable Danube would be a prime honeymoon spot, and a gaze at some of the gay folk who recently tied the knot in utterly fabulous fashion.

And what's around the corner here at Lavender? Well, Pride, of course! Throughout all of April, we're offering the rainbow community a chance to make a case for why they should be the cover star for our June 7 Pride Edition! All you have to do is send us a video, with a maximum length of one minute, telling us why you'd be the best pick for our Pride cover.

Finalists will be voted on by our readers during the first week of May. But that's not all! If you're the lucky winner, you'll not only be on the cover, but you'll win a cruise trip for two from Celebrity Cruises! So come April, get those cell phones and webcams ready, and prepare to wow us! ■

Say "I DO" with Kimpton Grand Hotel Minneapolis

We've always been on your side. Now let us stand at your side. There is no day like your Wedding Day, to stay true to you.

To learn more about ceremonies, celebrations or lovefests with Kimpton Grand Hotel contact Jill Galera at (612) 373-0411 or email Jill.Galera@kimptonhotels.com

615 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 288-8888
grandhotelminneapolis.com
#GrandHotelMpls

KIMPTON
THE GRAND HOTEL
MINNEAPOLIS

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.

I'm active, not unaware.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

GILEAD

Learn more at **truvada.com**

Truvada®
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
for PrEP pre-exposure prophylaxis

Truvada®
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
for PrEP pre-exposure prophylaxis

(tru-VAH-dah)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.

GILEAD

TRUVADA FOR PREP, the TRUVADA FOR PREP Logo, the TRUVADA Blue Pill Design, TRUVADA, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

Version date: April 2017

© 2017 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. TVDC0131 07/17

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

Youth Isn't Wasted On The Young

History was not driven solely by bearded elders—a fact we tend to forget, looking at portraits of the bewigged and edentulate, that the subjects started in youth and vigor.

Benjamin Franklin, born in 1706, had a scant two years of formal schooling, was apprenticed to his father's shop at eight, then to his older brother James at ten, where he learned the printer's trade.

George Washington, born in 1732, had what amounted to, roughly, grade-school level education. He learned surveying, and was hired to lay out lots in the Shenandoah Valley. By 1750, still 18, he had invested in land, and in 1753 carried a message into the wilderness while spying on the French; the start of his military career.

Another young man was John Adams, the cranky, future first vice-president and second president. Younger by three years than Washington, Adams entered Harvard at 16 yet, despite his own talents, remained jealous and critical of the winsome Franklin and the robust, charismatic Washington.

"That Washington was not a scholar," he wrote, "was certain. That he was too illiterate, unread, unlearned for his station and reputation is equally past dispute."

He belittled Franklin, mocking his French pronunciation even as Franklin charmed all Paris at 80 reporting him to be "cordial but aloof, easygoing to the point of indolence, distressingly slipshod about details and money."

Adams was self-aware. Speaking to 33-year-old Jefferson, about to pen the Declaration of Independence in 1776, he conceded, "I am obnoxious, suspected, [and] unpopular…and you can write ten times better than I can." Franklin, then 70 and also aware, made a crucial edit to Jefferson's text. He struck three words, changing, "We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable," to "self-evident," altering the phrase from an assertion of religion to one of rationality.

Each of these varied individuals began careers when "just kids." Polymath Franklin, inventor, statesman, writer, and wit; Washington's military prowess led to our country's independence and the presidency; Adams's opinionated perseverance (he would not have appreciated the number "Sit Down, John!" in the musical *1776*).

Our country depends on the fresh eye and energy of youth as well as the wisdom that (sometimes) comes with age. We need to remember that and listen to the future. ■

Vanitas Vanitatum

Local fashion designer Samantha Rei finds success with Vanitas line.

BY KASSIDY TARALA | DESIGNED BY SAMANTHA REI | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX BUTTERFIELD

Models, left to right: Claire Thomas, Cristina Peterson, Ivy Fae Baumgarten, Jeilah K

Samantha Rei, born in Boulder, Colorado and raised in Hastings, Minnesota, has brought big names like Huffington Post, Glamour UK, Vogue UK, and *Project Runway* to the fashion scene of Minneapolis. Having been designing for over 17 years, Rei currently resides in North Minneapolis where she brings her childhood dream of fashion to life.

"I've been an artist as long as I can remember, and I was raised by a mom who has sewed for her whole life. When I was in middle school, I discovered fashion and I just ran with it. I started my first label in 2000, designing Lolita clothing," Rei says.

Rei moved her base of operations to a studio in Northeast Minneapolis from North Loop after filming *Project Runway* last fall. She's planning her grand opening in late spring, which will surely be as grand and whimsical as her designs.

"I would describe my fashion as a little bit Kate Spade, a little bit Vivienne Westwood. Fun and quirky, cute and punky," she says. "A little bit rebellious and a whole lot whimsical."

Rei's designs are inspired by several of her favorite designers including Hirooka Naoto, John Galliano, and—her personal favorite—Alexander McQueen. Although her unique fashion has been recognized nationally and internationally, she's still a Minneapolis favorite, too. In 2014, Rei was selected as one of *City Pages'* "Artists of the Year," and in 2016, she won Best of the Twin Cities "Best Fashion Show" and Reader's Choice "Best Local Fashion Designer."

Although Rei's designs are typically centered around dresses, menswear, and accessories, she says that several brides come to her for wedding apparel, too.

"Quirky brides come to me. I'm known for being able to create things for unconventional weddings. I've only made two white wedding dresses, and they were still unconventional! I've just streamlined my consultation appointment website as well. Check out the Limited Engagement section of www.samantharei.com for more info!"

Models, left to right: Ivy Fae Baumgarten, Cristina Peterson, Claire Thomas

Model: Ivy Fae Baumgarten

Model: Cristina Peterson

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Model: Ivy Fae Baumgarten

Model: Cristina Peterson

Model: Jeilah K

Model: Claire Thomas

Model: Cristina Peterson

After competing on Lifetime's *Project Runway* Season 16, Rei is reentering the Minneapolis fashion scene with a bang. She recently dropped her new Vanitas line, which is already turning heads. The line carries the same whimsical Rei charm as her usual designs, but Rei says it exudes a new level of beauty and class. Featuring darker hues, big, chunky accessories, and thick velvety materials, the Vanitas line is taking Rei's fashion somewhere it's never gone before. Rei says the line is perfect for the unconventional bride.

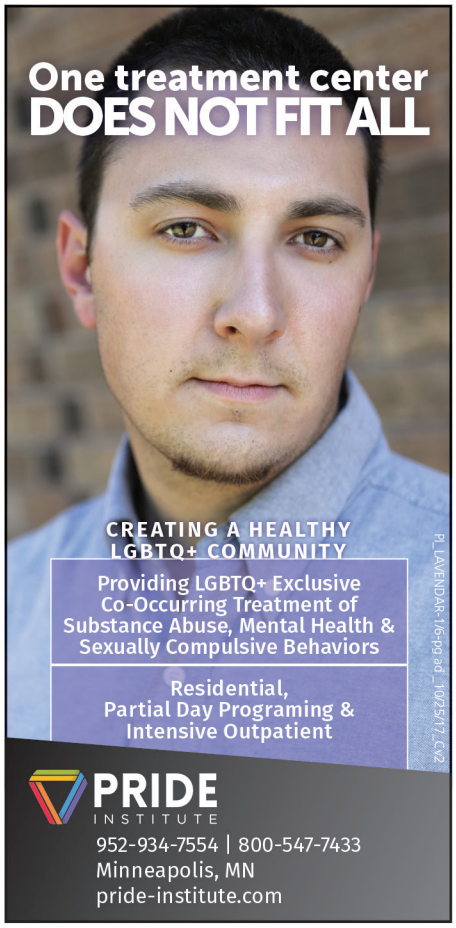
"A lot of my brides love dark and decadent things. And almost all of my wedding clients want to be able to use their garment again. This is the kind of collection that can be used for someone's big day and then worn again for other big events," she says.

For her Vanitas line, Rei featured several local models, two being Ivy Fae and Claire Thomas, a lesbian couple from Minneapolis.

"I chose Ivy and Claire for this set because they are such a cute couple. I've known Ivy for several years and she's such a sweet, beautiful person, and I've gotten to know Claire through her, and you can tell they just have so much love between them. I'm happy Ivy found Claire, too. They've been so good for her. They are funny and their smile is infectious," Rei says.

Though this was Thomas' first time modeling and Fae's second, the couple brought a natural sense of love to the Vanitas line, which Rei is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16


One treatment center
DOES NOT FIT ALL
CREATING A HEALTHY LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY
Providing LGBTQ+ Exclusive Co-Occurring Treatment of Substance Abuse, Mental Health & Sexually Compulsive Behaviors
Residential, Partial Day Programing & Intensive Outpatient
PRIDE INSTITUTE
952-934-7554 | 800-547-7433
Minneapolis, MN
pride-institute.com

STANDARD HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Triple Savings in April
› Family-Owned Since 1930
› Smart Club™ Maintenance Plan
› Service On All Brands
YORK INSTALL CONFIDENCE
When installing a new furnace and air conditioner
April 1 - April 30, 2018
$0 DOWN
0% INTEREST
FOR 25 MONTHS (OAC)
Contact Us Today! | 612-503-8090 | standardheating.com

VOLUNTEERING
in research studies is what gave us effective HIV meds that allow people to live long, healthy lives.
The U of M is looking for the next generation of volunteers to help discover new methods to eliminate HIV from the body - hopefully leading to a cure, one day.
Call or email Tim to learn how you can be part of research.
tpresley@umn.edu | 612-626-8680
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

BEING YOUR KID'S **HERO**
JUST GOT EASIER...

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I CAN!
PROGRAMS INCLUDE

- Hands-on instruction from an experienced and fun crew.
- Use of gear.

Wallet-friendly adventure.

THE KIDS' first time fishing, paddling, shooting a bow and arrow. Now, that's a summer. I Can! programs help your family have a blockbuster summer – all at a beginner's level.

Get started at **mndnr.gov/ICan**
or call **888-MINNDNR**

ARCHERY in the parks
I can CAMP!
I can FISH!
I can MOUNTAIN BIKE!
I can PADDLE!

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

Planning

hopeful will draw brides to the quirky, unique designs.

"It was a lot of fun working with Ivy and Claire on this because it was just so easy. Once they were dressed up, you could tell they were having fun with each other. They didn't need much direction, and they really just took the concept and ran with it," she says.

Fae says her long friendship with Rei and past modeling for her landed her the gig as a model for Rei's Vanitas line.

"Samantha and I became friends somewhere around nine years ago through mutual friends. I think the first time I met her was at a Lolita gathering at the lantern festival at Como. (Samantha) asked if I would like to model for Helena," she says. "I had never done it before, so I was super excited but also pretty terrified. I was surrounded by experienced models, there was an actual runway, cameras, and Novala Takemoto was playing solo shred metal on the staircase. It was surreal."

Fae says she came out as a lesbian shortly before she began her modeling career, so she was hesitant to put herself in the spotlight until Rei gave her the motivation she needed.

"Samantha was very reassuring and her kindness really saved the day. Right then, the (video game) *Katamari Damacy* theme song started playing for the final walk through. I was barely being able to stop myself from laughing on the catwalk," Fae says.

Thomas says their first-time experience with modeling was fun because of their ability to blend both modeling and the dynamics of their relationship with Fae together. Also, Thomas says Rei played an integral role in warming them up to the stage.

"It was amazing! She made sure we were comfortable as disabled, amateur models. It was like hanging out with a friend. It meant a lot to me that she made sure that the designs and styling were true to me as a non-binary person," Thomas says.

Rei says she lives—and designs—with the belief that everyone is beautiful in their own individual way, and she wants her designs to allow people to embrace this beauty.

"Everyone deserves to feel beautiful. My clothing shouldn't make someone feel more beautiful, it should magnify the beauty they already have within. My goal is to help everyone tell their own story," she says.

For more on Samantha Rei's work and Vanitas line, visit www.samantharei.com.

Photography: *Alex Butterfield*
Hair: *Orley Anderson*
Makeup: *Grace Witthuhn*
Jewelry: *Bionic Unicorn*
Shoes: *John Fluevog Shoes*
Models: *Ivy Fae Baumgarten, Jeilah K, Cristina Peterson, Claire Thomas*

EVERY RELATIONSHIP IS UNIQUE. SHOULDN'T YOUR RINGS REFLECT THAT?

PLATINUM WEDDING SET WITH WHITE & COGNAC DIAMONDS.

Custom-designed jewelry reflects your individuality like nothing else. Select your stones, have the setting crafted and see your dream come to life.

ROBERT FOOTE, MASTER JEWELER

View our collection at 50th & France, Edina 612-929-2279 www.rfjeweler.com

BORTON OVERSEAS
SIGNATURE JOURNEYS

WATER, WILDLIFE, & THE WONDERS OF

ANTARCTICA

An Expedition Cruise

March 1-15, 2019
Hosted by Linda McCormick, Managing Director, Borton Overseas

- Our sailing will have a special focus on marine wildlife.
- Learn about Antarctica's eco-system from noted experts in marine biology.
- Participate in citizen science programs for major research organizations.
- Peter Neill, Director of the World Ocean Observatory, will be Borton Overseas' featured lecturer on this journey!
- The ship holds only 100 passengers, and with fewer passengers, you'll spend more time on shore.

From $13,934 per person, double occupancy. Traveling solo? Please inquire for details.*

Crafting EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS Around the World!

Kjell Bergh's
BORTON OVERSEAS
Journeys to Extraordinary Lands
AFRICA ◆ ANTARCTICA ◆ ASIA ◆ CHINA
INDIA ◆ SCANDINAVIA ◆ SOUTH AMERICA

www.bortonoverseas.com
612-822-4640 | info@bortonoverseas.com

*Package begins in Buenos Aires, Borton Overseas can assist with flights.

The Hutton House is a 12,000 square-foot event venue located on Medicine Lake. Photo by Perry James Photography

A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME WITHOUT HUTTON

The Hutton House offers a great wedding venue for couples looking for a combination of urban and rural.

BY KASSIDY TARALA

A modern farmhouse design, The Hutton House is located in a suburb on Medicine Lake just 10 minutes west of downtown Minneapolis. The Hutton House offers a rural property with a contemporary, urban feel for couples that want to get away from the city without actually getting away.

The Hutton House features a number of amenities including on-site parking for up to 140 vehicles, hi-speed Wi-Fi, indoor and outdoor sound systems, a screen and projector in both the Lakeside and Fireside rooms, a warming kitchen, full bar service, seating for up to 300 guests, an outdoor courtyard, and many more.

The 3,200 square-foot outdoor courtyard can accommodate up to 300 standing guests. Lined with bluestone and astroturf landscape that remains green all year, the outdoor courtyard provides a private outdoor oasis right in the backyard. Equipped with a fire pit and speakers, the courtyard is available to guests year-round, including a tent for the cold winter months.

Inside, The Hutton House features two rooms, the Lakeside and Fireside. The Lakeside can accommodate up to 300 seats depending on the layout of the event. The larger of the two rooms, this space is open, el-

egant, and warm with vaulted ceilings and gorgeous lighting fixtures, all on dimmers to create the perfect ambiance. Additionally, the Lakeside has several windows that allow natural light to flow in and open to the lush green outdoor courtyard. The room has a built-in custom bar, but portable bars are also available for setup.

The Fireside is a smaller room, seating up to 150 guests. Though a bit cozier, the Fireside has the same elegant, warm appeal as the Lakeside and includes a white brick gas fireplace. It also has large sliding glass doors that open up to eight feet, which create a unique indoor/outdoor combined experience for guests. The Fireside also boasts a lot of natural lighting and ambiance.

If you're looking to make a dramatic entrance, The Hutton House also features a long, elegant staircase perfect for the wedding party to descend down. You will surely take your partner's breath away with an entrance as picturesque as that.

The Hutton House has a long list of recommended vendors from jewelry to make up to flowers. For catering, The Hutton House works with delicious local caterers like Chowgirls Killer Catering, Create Catering, Marna's Catering, Crave Catering & Events, D'Amico Catering, and Liquid Motion.

Before The Hutton House was The Hutton House, the building was home to the Chateau at Medicine Lake, which was also a wedding venue. After being completely demolished, the property was reconfigured and The Hutton House was built brand new. Once construction began in February 2017, the entirety of the property was finished in November 2017.

The Hutton House is a popular venue for weddings, corporate gatherings, and other forms of events. Photo by Perry James Photography

The Hutton House welcomes all couples to share their big day at their property, and they're becoming a popular spot for GLBT couples to tie the knot.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

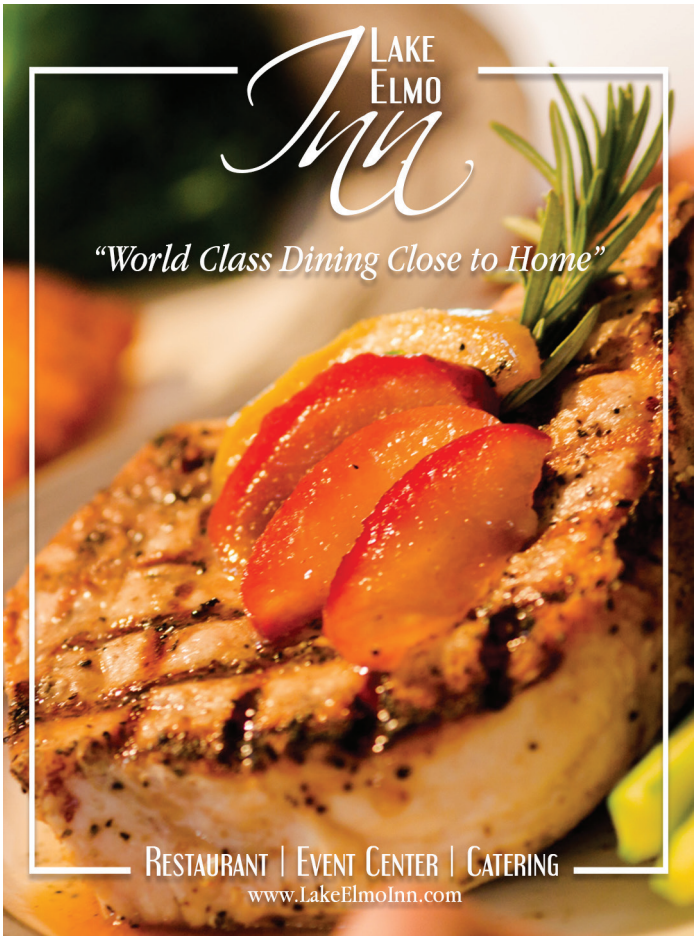
The Hutton House features a built-in bar, an indoor fireplace, and tables and chairs for up to 300 guests. Photo by Perry James Photography

Designed to appeal to people searching for a variety of different styles for different types of events, The Hutton House provides versatility to anyone who walks through its doors. A clean, warm, and welcoming palette that can be simple and elegant on its own can also become a space entirely customized by the client.

Though The Hutton House just opened in November, business has been going well. With a busy 2018 wedding season ahead, The Hutton House is also trying to get involved in other events, too. In addition to weddings, staff at The Hutton House is hopeful that corporate, non-profit, and social clients will be interested in hosting events at the venue, too.

As The Hutton House prepares for the busy spring wedding season, couples are already lining up to say "I do" at the cozy, urban setting throughout the rest of the year. The Hutton House encourages GLBT couples to check out their venue and enjoy the destination wedding of their dreams, just 10 minutes away from the heart of their city.

For information about The Hutton House, visit www.thehuttonhousemn.com or call 952-470-0788. ■



SAVE WITH SOLAR.

REBATES LIMITED

AllEnergySolar.com

Phone: +1 651 401 8522

1642 Carroll Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55104

ALL ENERGY | SOLAR |

LANDMARK CENTER

landmarkcenter.org | 75 5th Street W. | St. Paul, MN 55102 | 651.292.3228

ORDWAY CONCERT series

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

ORDWAY.ORG

651.224.4222 | TTY: 651.282.3100

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

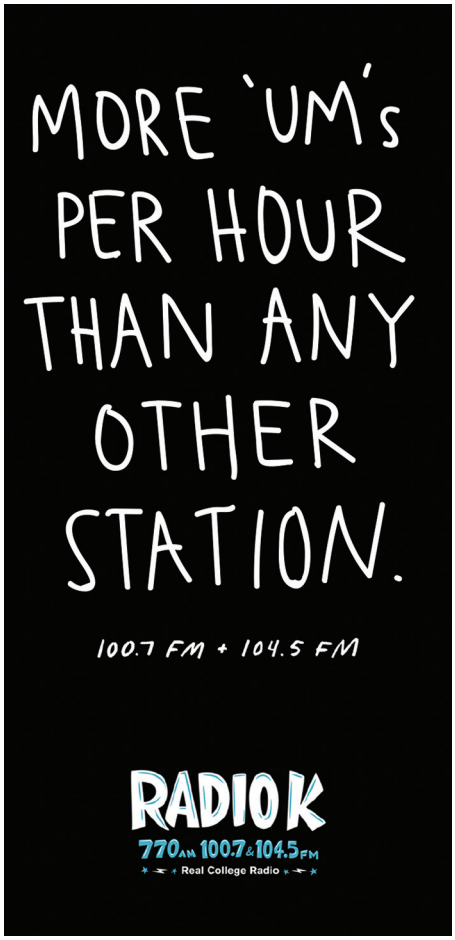
THE RED TO HIS WHITE

Joe Livingston and Adam Hirsch share the story of their relationship and unique wedding.

BY KASSIDY TARALA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM DAVIS, CONSOLIDATED PHOTO

We Pay Top Dollar for...
Your Used
Vinyl, CDs & DVDs
Sell it!
Get an Extra 30%
if you choose store credit over cash
The Electric fetus
M-F: 9-9
Sat: 9-8
Sun: 11-6
Franklin + 4th · 612.870.9300
www.efetus.com
Your local record store since 1968

the Aliveness project
Dine Out Like Champions
Thursday, APRIL 26
WE ARE TEAM ALIVENESS
2018 Celebrity Spokespersons
Kare11's Sven Sundgaard
and Rena Sarigianopoulos
Dining out for life
MINNESOTA
For more information and a complete list of participating restaurants, visit
diningoutforlife.com or call 612-824-LIFE (5433)
PROUD HOST SPONSOR:
Subaru Loves to Care
Dining Out FOR LIFE
Dine Out, Fight AIDS
PLATINUM KNIFE SPONSOR:
Sysco
MEDIA PARTNERS:
KARE 11
LAVENDER


MORE 'UM's PER HOUR THAN ANY OTHER STATION.
100.7 FM + 104.5 FM
RADIO K
770AM 100.7&104.5FM
Real College Radio

www.owensco.com
OWENS
952.854.3800
Call today for your free estimate
Proud to serve our local LGBTQ+ community
$50 OFF
Your Next Air Conditioning Service
Since 1957
OWENS
Take comfort™
$200 OFF
New Air Conditioning Install
Since 1957
OWENS
Take comfort™
Offers may not be combined. Only one coupon per household.

Adam Hirsch and Joe Livingston met like many couples do: in college. However, the beginning of their relationship started the way many of us only dream of: with dogs. Adam, originally from New York, grew up in Chicago before moving to Minneapolis to attend the University of Minnesota for communications and human resource development. During his college years, Adam was a dog-walker for a small local business. While dog-sitting for a mutual friend, Adam met Joe. The two instantly hit it off while walking the dogs and ended up going to dinner right after, which they spent bonding over the red labrador Adam was dog-sitting and Joe's white labrador, leading to their commonly used expression, "He's the red to my white."

Joe, a Coon Rapids native, attended the University of Minnesota for electrical engineering and has been working in the utility power industry for almost 11 years. After meeting Adam, Joe decided to stick around Minneapolis for eight years before they decided to move to a quieter part of town in Golden Valley where they enjoy—you guessed it—walking their dogs.

Eliminate Your Electric Bills

- Increased Property Value
- Great Incentives / Rebates
- Reduce Carbon Footprint
- Financing Available

able™ ENERGY CO.

Frank Linn
frank.linn@weknowsolar.com • (715) 821-8427
WeKnowSolar.com/Lavender.html

Be sure to check out Swanoptik.com
(Coming Soon!)
651-646-8080 • moderneyewearoptical.com
1600 University Ave. W, Suite #4, St. Paul, MN 55104

Looking for a way to save?

You need to insure both your auto and your home, so why not save money in the process? Call today for a free, no obligation look at auto and home discounts from American Family.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®
All your protection under one roof®

EQUAL HOUSING INSURER

American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
American Family Insurance Company
American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio
Home Office - Columbus, OH 43240
www.amfam.com © 2008

Dawn Bartell Agency
4649 Bloomington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
dbartell@amfam.com
612.333.5554

Visit BigGayNews.com for your weekday news featuring Local, National and International GLBT News.

BIG GAY NEWS.COM™

With more than 80,000 followers on Twitter, BigGayNews.com is your source for GLBT news.

A couple years into their relationship, Adam and Joe planned an "engagement trip" to Italy where the two would avoid formalities and traditions associated with proposals. They picked out their rings, headed to Italy, and picked a night they would have their "engagement dinner." However, that wasn't exactly the trip that happened.

"I soon discovered that 'I' decided that, as Joe had something else planned: he called Delta airlines and arranged for a 'surprise' mid-flight. We got engaged over the Atlantic Ocean on the red eye to Venice with champagne, chocolates, and clapping and cheering from the flight attendants and other folks onboard. Talk about a good flight," Adam says.

Adam and Joe got married on October 7, 2017 at Paikka, an old mattress factory in St. Paul. Initially, the couple was undecided about what kind of wedding they wanted. After much deliberation and flipping back and forth between eloping, a small wedding, and a big wedding, Adam and Joe decided that they wanted to have their friends and family enjoy their big day, too.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

BW
BEST WISHES FLORAL
Your Floral Design Specialists!
Special Events • Weddings • Funerals • Deliveries
Wire Service Available!
WWW.BWFLORAL.COM
689 WINNETKA AVE. N. • GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427
763.593.1777 • TOLL FREE: 888.893.7950 • INFO@BWFLORAL.COM

KARIN JACOBSON FINE JEWELRY

Wedding & Commitment Rings
BY KARIN JACOBSON DESIGN
WWW.KARINJACOBSON.COM

The Clinic
FOR MEDICAL AESTHETICS
BEAUTY. ART. SCIENCE.
Have a Wrinkle Free Wedding!
Botox/Dysport • Dermal Fillers
Laser Treatments • Skincare
Permanent Cosmetics
Lash Extensions
8085 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 110 · St. Louis Park
(763) 205-4718 · THECLINICMN.COM

jewelry
home
chocolate
max's
ILA
Shops at Excelsior & Grand | 3826 Grand Way | St. Louis Park | 952.922.8364
www.StyleByMax.com

COLDWELL BANKER
BURNET
MOVING OUT?
MOVING UP?
MOVING ON?
Let us show you the way home!
(612) 965-9586
GetInfo@ScottStevensonGroup.com
SCOTT STEVENSON GROUP

MODERN WEDDINGS.
CLASSIC STYLE.
BAKKEN MUSEUM
3537 Zenith Ave, Minneapolis | thebakken.org

"We had about 125 people at the wedding. Overall, the vibe we were going for was casual. So, prior to our ceremony, we had a big cocktail hour that both Joe and I participated in, with special drinks: a Marriage Mule and a Joe's Gin! This was such a fun way to start the evening," Adam says. "Following the cocktail hour, we had an informal ceremony. In other words, there was no procession and no seating for everyone there. We simply had a few benches right at the front for immediate family, everybody else filled in around by way of standing. This worked out perfectly—not to mention we were outside on a private patio, and the weather was picturesque."

After the ceremony, the couple had a food truck filled with food to satisfy everyone's cravings: bacon grilled cheese, pulled chicken tacos, yuca fries, and much more. Additionally, they had food stations set up throughout the venue so no matter where guests were, food would be available throughout the entire night. For sweets, the couple opted out of a traditional wedding cake and instead had a giant cookie from T-Rex Cookies.

Since tying the knot, Adam and Joe have continued the love story that began with a simple dog-walking job.

"Simply put, Joe is the red to my white… we LOVE wine," Adam says. ■

Photographer: *Tim Davis, Consolidated Photo*
Date of Wedding: *October 7, 2017*
Dating Since: *August 2013*
Location of Ceremony & Reception: *Paikka*
Florist: *Munster Rose*
Wedding Coordinator: *Style-Architects Weddings & Events*
Stylist: *Style-Architects Weddings & Events*
Catering: *Marna's Catering*
Invitations: *Meghan Rose Designs/Smart Set Printing*

coolsculpting

FREEZE AWAY FAT

REGISTER TODAY FOR ONE OF OUR **COOLEVENTS**

Before

After CoolSculpting

PLYMOUTH
APRIL 24 • 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

EDINA
APRIL 26 • 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Receive a Complimentary CoolSculpting Consultation – Receive a Free Obagi® REVEAL Camera Analysis – Enjoy Refreshments - Ask Questions – See a Live Demo

EVENT SPECIALS
- Buy 4 CoolSculpting® applications and receive 4 at 50% off
- Buy 3 CoolSculpting® applications and receive the 4th application free
- Save 20% on Skin Care Products

RSVP to **communications@zelskin.com** or
by calling Edina: **(952) 929-8888** or Plymouth: **(952) 473-1286**

*To take advantage of event specials, purchase must be made and payment received by April 30, 2018. May not be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. Results and patient experience may vary. Learn more at **zelskin.com/coolsculpting**

Zel SKIN & LASER SPECIALISTS®
dermatologist directed
www.zelskin.com
Edina | Minneapolis | Plymouth

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST

Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements

4330 Nicollect Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442 MN LIC #BC378021
www.houseliftinc.com

House Lift REMODELER

A LOVE STORY FIT FOR A KING AND A QUEENIE

Renata and Emi Nijiya share the story of how they fell in love and details about their wedding.

BY KASSIDY TARALA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEY BERRY PHOTOGRAPHY

NOW OPEN!

Haskell's
The Wine & Cheese Bar!

612-638-0926

Coffee
- Espresso bar

Food
- Breakfast Sandwiches
- Gourmet Specialties
- Paninis
- Small Plates

Beer
- Craft & Specialty

Wine
- Best Wine List in Town!

901 Nicollet Mall
www.haskellswinebar.com

Haskell's
The Wine People!
Haskells.com • 1-800-486-2434

Seven Hawks Vineyards

During your stay visit our **tasting room** and **wine shop** located at 17 North Street. All of our wines are made from **100% locally grown grapes.**

Hawks View Cottages
dreamers welcome

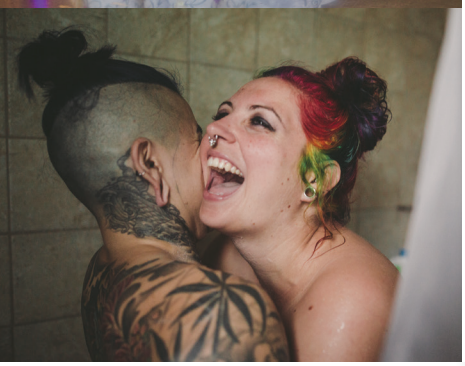
Our nine distinctive cottages, lodges & suites are crafted high up onto steep wooded bluffs, with hawk's eye views of the Mississippi River and Old Fountain City, Wisconsin.

651-293-0803 or 866-293-0803
www.hawksview.net • Fountain City, WI

You each have a story, and your rings should, too!

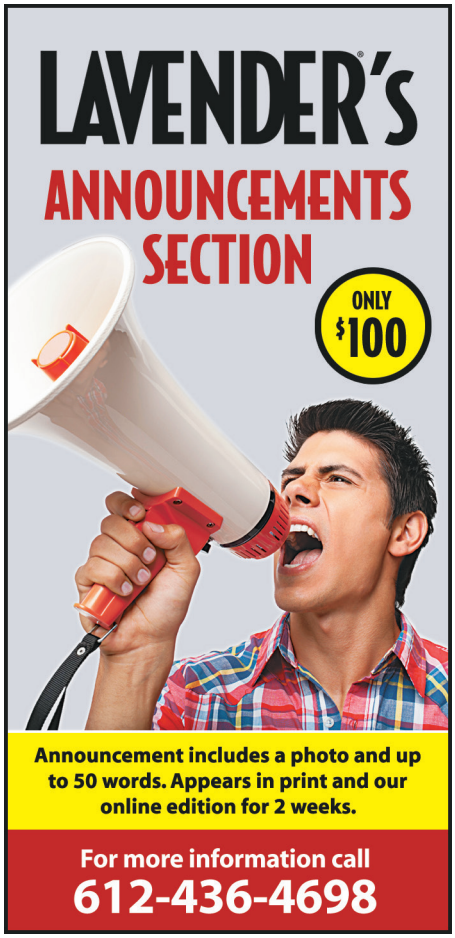
Jewelry by
Johan
JEWELRY RE-IMAGINED

Handmade in Minnesota with unique and eye-catching materials. Schedule a free, in -person consultation today to start designing your dream rings!
651.321.9267
www.jewelrybyjohan.com



Virginia and Minnesota might seem like they're worlds apart, but for Renata and Emi Nijiya, they couldn't be more connected. Renata grew up in Richmond, Virginia and attended Longwood University where she studied theater performance. After school, she moved to Minneapolis to work as a costume designer where she has worked in a number of theaters as both a designer and actor. She was also a company member of Ballet of the Dolls and eventually discovered her passion for burlesque dancing, which she continues performing today as Queenie von Curves. After a brief stint as a vegan butcher—she really has tried everything—Renata began working as a box office manager for Theater Latté Da at the Ritz Theater.

Emi, on the other hand, is all Minnesotan. After growing up on Ham Lake and attending Blaine High School, Emi went to Concordia College where they studied music for a year before transferring to St. Cloud State University to study business management. They went on to a tattooing apprenticeship after college and is now an owner of Jackalope Tattoo in South Minneapolis. Emi has also been performing as a drag king for nearly 15 years as Damien



D'Luxe. Additionally, Emi is a cast member with #dragrevolution at LUSH and performs around the state at other venues.

Performing is what Renata and Emi both love to do, so it's no surprise that it's how the couple met. In December 2013, Renata and Emi were performing at Hell's Kitchen with Black Hearts Burlesque.

"I was dressed as a dreidel for my Hanukkah number, and they were dressed as Sporty Spice for a group number. I immediately asked around to find out who they were and was told they were Damien D'Luxe, and I was immediately smitten," Renata says.

The couple performed in a number of shows together over the next couple of years, and after becoming close friends, they realized their love for each other.

"I always knew I wanted to be near her and to know her but it took years to figure out why. After years of friendship, we discovered we were soul mates and have been inseparable since," Emi says.

Once they started dating, Renata and Emi took no time planning their wedding. Not long into their relationship, the couple bought locally made rings from I Like You and arranged engagement photos. During the photo shoot, Renata surprised Emi with a traditional proposal where she got down on one knee and pulled out a set of rings that read "I love you like crazy" and "Renemi," their couple name, which were made by Renata's favorite jeweler, Everthine Jewelry.

Renata and Emi tied the knot on September 24, 2017 in Emi's parents' backyard with a reception at LUSH, the couple's "second home."

"Our wedding ceremony was relatively small, with family and close friends. Our wedding party included my sister and three best friends and Emi's brother, cousin, and two best friends. We were both walked down the aisle by our parents while our dear friend Paul Brekke, a.k.a. Victoria DeVille, sang 'Rainbow Connection.' Our wedding was officiated by another dear friend, Kata Garrison," Renata says.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

EVENTS &
CELEBRATIONS
Host your special event at
Golden Valley's newest full-service venue
Centrally located with expansive golf course and sunset views, the Bassett Creek Room at Brookview will offer a modern, versatile indoor and outdoor space for all occasions.

Recreation. Relaxation. Celebration.
BROOKVIEW
GOLDEN VALLEY
brookviewgoldenvalley.com

BROOKVIEW
backyard
The west metro's newest indoor playground. Book your birthday party now!

THREE ONE SIX
BAR + GRILL

BROOKVIEW
GOLF & LAWN BOWLING
Summer
18-hole
Par 3
Driving range
Lawn bowling
Fire pit
Winter
Fat tire biking
Cross-country skiing
Skijouring
Disc golf

316 Brookview Parkway S, Golden Valley, MN . 763-512-2300

Magnolia Blossom
Cruises on the Mississippi
and Minnesota Rivers
We specialize in small groups of up to 110 people.

Magnolia Blossom
Cruise The Mississippi

Magnolia Blossom Cruises
Watergate Marina
2500 Crosby Farm Road, St. Paul, MN 55116
(651) 690-2739
www.magnoliablossom.net

Emi says their favorite part of the big day was the exchanging of the vows because they were nearly identical, proving that the couple was destined to be together.

"It immediately reaffirmed to me that we truly are soulmates. I also loved watching Renata walk down the aisle towards me. Seeing her face light up with happiness is still a crisp, perfect memory in my mind. One of the more emotional parts of the reception was the father-daughter dances and listening to our dads' speeches about us. Both had me in tears of happiness," Emi says.

Renata and Emi say their wedding was unique because it incorporated elements from both of their heritages, Japanese and Jewish, and to top off an already perfect day, their French bulldog Harley was their ring bearer.

"Our heritages were especially highlighted during our ceremony, being married under a chuppah that was made of bamboo instead of the traditional birch, and had waterfalls of 1,000 origami paper cranes, folded by Emi's family, and also stomping on the glass with a Mazel Tov! We loved that we had so many friends and family be a part of the ceremony and reception from music to photography to food to officiating," Renata says. ■

Photographer: *Ashley Berry Photography*
Date of Wedding: *September 24, 2017*
Dating Since: *September 2015*
Location of Ceremony: *Emi's parents' home*
Location of Reception: *LUSH*
Florist: *Local farmers market flowers, put together with bridesmaids*
Stylist: *Jewelry from Patina; dress tailoring by Samantha Haddow; rhinestone embellishments by Ashley Berry*
Bridal Hair and Makeup: *Bridesmaid Erin Linehan and Sica Dawn from Fox Den*
Cake: *Sugar High MPLS*

CROWNE PLAZA®
MINNEAPOLIS DOWNTOWN
NORTHSTAR

OUR WEDDING PACKAGES INCLUDE
Chair Covers • Garden Chairs for Ceremonies • Suite for the Couple
Wedding Event Manager • Floral Centerpieces • Gift Opening Room

618 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55402 | 612.436.9351
www.cpminneapolis.com | allykreye@cpminneapolis.com | CAPACITY: 250

LAVENDER® LINK

SIGN UP FOR LAVENDER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!

1. SIMPLY VISIT THIS LINK LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/LAVENDERLINK

2. ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ALONG WITH YOUR NAME.

Email Address
First Name
Last Name
Subscribe

3. CONFIRM YOUR SUBSCRIPTION. CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR A CONFIRMATION EMAIL AND LINK.

4. LAVENDER LINK IS A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER WITH LINKS TO EXCLUSIVE STORIES ON LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM, CONTESTS, LAVENDER EVENTS, AND MUCH MORE!

LAVENDER LINK

A roof, thoughtfully designed and carefully installed, is truly a thing of beauty...

Call us at 612-722-7129 • Garlock-French.com

GARLOCK·FRENCH CORPORATION
SINCE 1932

Roofing, Chimneys, Sheet Metal & more

MN License #BC001423

TJB HOMES, INC.

REINVENT
REVIVE
REDESIGN

763.780.2944 • TJBRemodeling.com • Jason@TJBhomes.com

JASON T. BUDZYNSKI
TJB Homes Remodeling

LEAD-SAFE EPA CERTIFIED FIRM
NAT-106860-1

city BATH CRASHERS

QB102000

Budapest at night. Photo courtesy of Eric Poole.

8 REASONS TO DO THE DANUBE:

Why You Should Take a Honeymoon Cruise Down Europe's Legendary River

BY ERIC POOLE

Just say the words "the Danube" to people who've been there, and they'll sigh longingly, and probably start a word salad of superlatives. The romance and beauty of this fabled river evokes a kind of magic, and justifiably so.

And that alone—plus the fact that you can do this river on all-gay cruises—should be enough to have you running to your laptop to book one.

But just in case, here are a few more good reasons:

1. It has some of Europe's most exciting and memorable cities, like Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and Bucharest. It's like a sightseeing superstore, except you don't need your Costco card.

2. The river runs through so many countries, it has multiple itineraries available, like Prague to Budapest, known as the "Upper Danube," and Budapest to Bucharest, or the "Lower Danube."

3. Because the river is so popular, many of the best and newest 4.5- and 5-star river cruise ships ply these waters. These are ships with walls of glass that slide open, good wi-fi, glassed-in showers, bathrooms with heated floors, etc.

Miss Conception, leading a sing-along en route to Salzberg for the Brand g Vacations Sound of Music tour. Photo courtesy of Eric Poole.

4. River cruises—unlike ocean cruises—tend to be more inclusive of costs, so you're not being nickel-and-dimed to death. Many gay Danube cruises, like those offered by tour operator Brand g Vacations, are truly all-inclusive, including shore excursions, airport transfers, and unlimited adult beverages. So all you have to worry about is remembering to bring that flowered bathing cap for the Szechenyi Baths. (Hey, sparkle a little.)

5. The nighttime sail in Budapest is something you will *never* forget. Not every cruise that stops in Budapest does this, so be sure to check. It's a post-dinner cruise down the Danube past the stunning—and brilliantly lit—waterfront buildings. It's so gorgeous and romantic, everyone just ends up getting in a big love pile.

6. Gay river cruises—like their ocean-going counterparts—bring on their own entertainers, since few gay folk are up for the typical offerings of the river cruise line (clogging, anyone?). And because so many top entertainers want to do a Danube cruise, the quality of entertainment on these cruises tends to be some of the best anywhere in the world.

7. Salzberg, Austria. It's the city where much of *The Sound of Music* was shot. And even if you're not a big fan (I hadn't seen the movie all the way through since I was wearing footie pajamas), you will love this tour, which is often an option on "Upper Danube" cruises.

8. It makes a once-in-a-lifetime gift. Nothing says love like giving your partner/spouse/boyfriend-du-jour a Danube cruise. Personally, I'm not made of money, so when I gave my husband one for our anniversary, I informed him that this also covered Christmas and his birthday. I call it "gift amortization" (just not to his face). It still won me enough brownie points that he didn't yell at me for months.

Ready to experience the magic? Then start planning, because these cruises can book up a year or more in advance. ■

Photo courtesy of Eric Poole

Prague's Old Town Square. Photo courtesy of Eric Poole.

Eric Poole is Director of Marketing for Brand g Vacations, the Leader in All-LGBT River Cruises and Land tours.

BIG GAY NEWS .COM™

Visit BIGGAYNEWS.COM for your weekday newscast featuring Local, National and International GLBT News.

Each newscast is accessible via computer download, smartphone, or iPod.

With more than 80,000 followers on Twitter, BigGayNews.com is your source GLBT news.

ORIGINAL MIXES

VAPING STUDIO

HOPKINS

YOUR SMOKING ALTERNATIVE

Premium Minnesota Hand-Crafted E-liquids • Refill Program • CBD Sold Here

Customer Loyalty Program • Weekly Educational Classes • Hardware Buy-Back Program

811 Mainstreet, Hopkins - 952-933-VAPE (8273) - Facebook.com/VapingStudio

Hours: Monday - Saturday: 10am - 7pm / Sunday: 11am - 4pm

WWW.VAPINGSTUDIO.COM

Follow us on Twitter!

ALLISON GUSTAFSON & AMY POITRA

Photographer: Bellagala
Date of Wedding: September 23, 2017
Dating Since: 2012
Location of Ceremony & Reception: Schells Stage at West End Market and History & Heritage Center (Minnesota State Fair Grounds)
Florist: DIY
Cake: Nothing Bundt Cakes
Caterer: Mintahoe Catering
DJ: Bellagala

REAL WEDDINGS

PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX

NATHAN KELLS & MICHAEL OLSON

Photographer: Brianna Collier and John Innes
Date of Wedding: September 1, 2017
Dating Since: August 14, 2015
Location of Ceremony & Reception: Stonebrooke Golf Club, Shakopee
Florist: Event Lab, Inc.
Wedding Coordinator: Teddi Sellick
Cake: HyVee
Invitations: The MPX Group

PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX

BEVERLY & BETH LUTHER QUAST

Photographer: Tandem Tree, Kate & Karl Kloos
Date of Wedding: October 14, 2017
Dating Since: May 18, 2013
Location of Ceremony & Reception: The Loring Bar & Restaurant; The Varsity Theater
Officiant: Rabbi Michael Latz, Shir Tikvah Congregation
Florist: Wisteria Designs
Wedding Coordinator: Bre Ward from Bre is Fun
Dress: Azazzie
Jumpsuit: Nordstrom, alterations by JenMar Creations
Stylist: Melissa Hunt-Schuft at Tangles & Co.; Derrick Greene at Lolamax
Makeup: Lianna Colestock with Primped
Cake: Angel Food Bakery
Invitations: Shutterfly Weddings/Wedding Paper Divas
Music: The Covers Band, Ovation String Quartet
Videographer: Angela Jimenez
Photobooth: The Traveling Photobooth

REAL WEDDINGS

PRODUCED BY CHRIS TARBOX

RORY & JOSH ZAMANSKY

Photographer: M Photography
Date of Wedding: November 11, 2017
Dating Since: On/off, then on again; 18 months prior to the wedding
Location of Ceremony: Beth El Synagogue, St. Louis Park
Location of Reception: Oak Ridge Country Club, Hopkins
Florist: Richfield Flowers & Events
Wedding Coordinator: Marsha Chernoff Golob of Magical Memories-Expert Wedding Planning
Cake: Angel Food Bakery/HyVee
Invitations: The Writery

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING

ASTROLOGY

ATTORNEYS

JEAN M. GUSTAFSON - Estate Law: Probate & Trust, Guardianship & Conservatorship, Child Protection, Mental Health Law. Licensed: Minnesota, South Dakota, Utah. MN Lavender Bar Association Greater Minnesota Fellowship Recipient, 2017. (218) 454-2039, GusLaw.net.

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

GUN SHOPS

HOME SERVICES

HOME SERVICES

INSURANCE

REAL ESTATE

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

REVERENT MASSAGE. Rejuvenate your body, mind and spirit... Call or text for prices and availability. Tony: (612) 326-0518.

ADVERTISER INDEX

Adult
Duluth Sauna 11
GuySpy 40
Megaphone 40

Arts & Entertainment
The Bakken Museum 26
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres 32
Electric Fetus 23
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts 21

Bakeries
Amy's Cupcake Shoppe 5

Bars & Nightlife
Gay 90's 17

Beauty & Relaxation
The Clinic for Aesthetic Beauty 25
Waxing the City 4
Zel Skin & Laser Specialists 27

Beverages
Haskell's The Wine & Cheese Bar! 29

Event Venues & Services
Lake Elmo Inn Event Center 20
Landmark Center 21
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis 20

Events
Lavender's First Thursdays 43
Magnolia Blossom Charter Cruises 31

Floral & Garden
Best Wishes Floral 25

Health & Wellness
Steve Burns, PH. D. 4
Mint Orthodontics 4
Modern Eyewear 24
PrEP 8, 9, 10
Pride Institute 15
The Soma Serenity Center 6
University of Minnesota, Infectious Diseases 15

Home Furnishings & Accessories
Habitation 5

Home Services
All Energy Solar 21
Able Energy Co. 24
Altus Architecture 6
Custom Floor 3
Garlock-French Roofing 33
House Lift Remodeler 27
Magic Carpets 11
Owens Companies 23
Standard Heating & Air Conditioning 15
TJB Homes Remodeling 33

Insurance
Bartell, Dawn 24

Jewelry
New Gild Jewelry 19
Arthur's Jewelers 5
Jewelry by Johan 29
Max's 26
Robert Foote Jeweler 17
Scheherazade Jewelers 7
Super Karin 25

Media & Communications
Radio K - Real College Radio 23

Optical
Origins Eye Clinic 5

Organizations
The Aliveness Project 23

Pet Products & Services
Downtown Dogs 6

Real Estate & Rentals
Amy Ruzick, Kay Johnson & Keith Taylor 16
Scott Stevenson, Realtor 40

Restaurants
Jax Cafe 30
Mercy 30

Sports & Recreation
Brookview Golden Valley 31
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 16

Tobacco Products
Vaping Studio 40

Travel & Accommodation
Odyseey Resorts 2

Travel & Accommodations
Borton Overseas 17
Celebrity Cruises 44
Crowne Plaza Northstar Hotel 32
Grand Hotel Minneapolis 35
Hawks View Cottages & Lodges 29
Water Street Inn 19

Wedding Resources
Bluefin Bay 25

LAVENDER®

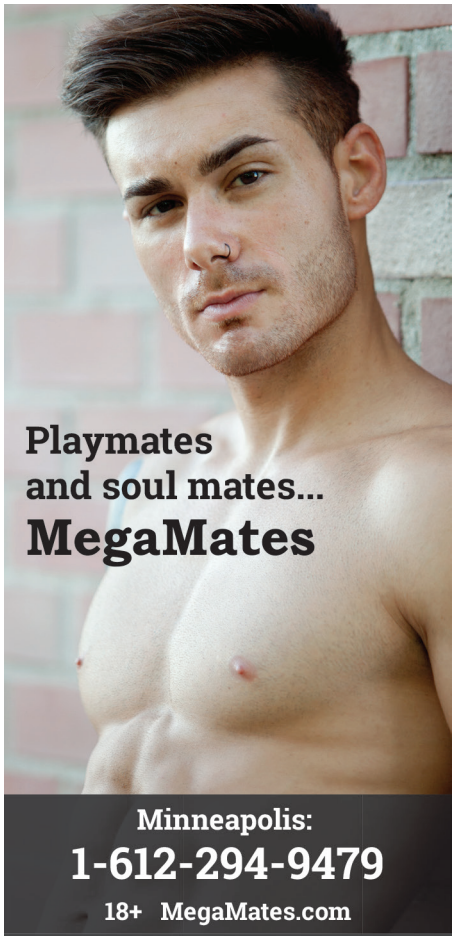
Like us
facebook.com/LavenderMagazine

Make sure your business, organization or event is part of

LAVENDER'S 2018 PRIDE ISSUE!

Deadline: May 18, 2018
Published: June 7, 2018

Call 612-436-4660 to speak with a sales executive and reserve your space today.



Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADVOCACY

Rainbow Health Initiative
Committed to advancing the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities through research, education and advocacy.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 220
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 206-3180
www.rainbowhealth.org

AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

Aliveness Project, The
Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS – On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433) www.aliveness.org

Minnesota AIDS Project AIDSLine
Statewide referral service for HIV information & resources including testing, care services, education around PrEP.
2577 Territorial Road
St. Paul, MN 55114
Metro: (612) 373-2437
Statewide: (800) 248-2437
mapaidsline@mnaidsproject.org
www.mnaidsproject.org

U of MN HIV Research Studies
Looking for HIV+ and HIV- individuals to participate in research studies.
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

ANIMAL RESCUE

Second Chance Animal Rescue
Dedicated to rescuing, fostering, caring for, and adopting out dogs and cats into forever homes.
P.O. Box 10533
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 771-5662
www.secondchancerescue.org

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Twin Cities Quorum
Your GLBTQA chamber of commerce working to invigorate, build & partner for a diverse business community.
18 N. 12th St., Ste. 3606
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

EVENT VENUES

Germanic-American Institute
Germanic-American Institute - Old World Charm as the perfect backdrop for your wedding day.
301 Summit Ave. St. Paul, MN 55102
651-222-7027
www.gai-mn.org

Landmark Center
A classic venue, with a grand cortile and beautiful courtrooms, accommodates celebrations of all sizes.
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 292-3228
www.landmarkcenter.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Clinic 555, St. Paul
Confidential, low cost sexual health clinic in downtown St. Paul. Now offering PrEP services!
555 Cedar St., Fl. 1
St. Paul, MN
(651) 266-1255
clinic555.org

Family Tree Clinic
LGBTQ Health Matters at Family Tree! Offering respectful, affordable sexual health services to meet your needs.
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota
(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

Red Door Clinic
Sexual health care for all people. Confidential tests and treatment in a safe, caring setting.
525 Portland Ave S., 4th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55405
(612) 543-5555
Reddoorclinic.org

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Twin Cities Public Television
Enriching lives and strengthening our community through the power of media.
172 E. 4th St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 229-1330
www.tpt.org

MUSEUM

Minneapolis Institute of Art
Enjoy masterpieces from all over the world and every period of human history. Free admission daily!
2400 3rd Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 870-3000
www.artsmia.org

Minnesota Historical Society Sites & Museums
Make the Minnesota Historical Society's 26 historic sites and museums part of your vacation plans.
www.mnhs.org

MUSIC

Radio K - Real College Radio
Radio K (KUOM) is the award-winning student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota.
610 Rarig Center 330 21st Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-3500
www.RadioK.org

PERFORMING ARTS

Children's Theatre Company
Children's Theatre Company creates theatre that educates, challenges and inspires. Values: Imagination, Excellence, Respect, Inclusion.
2400 3rd Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 874-0400
http://www.childrenstheatre.org

Hennepin Theatre Trust
Orpheum, State, Pantages and New Century Theatres
Twin Cities' best live entertainment: Broadway shows, music concerts, comedy, dance and more!
Minneapolis, MN
1-800-982-2787
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

Lyric Arts Main Street Stage
A professional theater that entertains, educates, stimulates & reflects the diverse perspectives of our audience & artists.
420 E. Main St.
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 422-1838
info@lyricarts.org
www.lyricarts.org

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
Hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.
345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

Minnesota Opera
World-class opera draws you into a synthesis of beauty: breathtaking music, stunning costumes, and extraordinary sets. Performances at the Ordway Music Theater – 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
(612) 333-6669
mnopera.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus
An award-winning chorus building community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!
528 Hennepin Ave., Ste. 307
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

PRIDE

Twin Cities Pride
Producers of the third-largest national Pride celebration seeks sponsors, volunteers, board members. Contact us today.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 402-7
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 255-3260
www.tcpride.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church
Everyone is welcome at Hennepin Church! Vibrant Worship. Authentic Community. Bold Outreach.
511 Groveland Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 871-5303
www.hennepinchurch.org

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis
Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming. Find us on Facebook and Twitter
1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
"St. Paul's Without Walls"- Come and experience the embrace of YES! Worship 9:30 a.m. Sundays.
34 10th Ave. S.
Hopkins, MN 55343
(952) 938-4683
www.saintpaulslutheran.org

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church
A thoughtful, gracious faith community welcoming all people. Sunday Worship 10am. Child Care, Sunday School.
797 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 227-6311
www.hohchurch.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches
Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

TRAVEL

Visit Duluth
Lake Superior. Historic waterfront. Vibrant arts & dining. Adventure. Hotels and B&Bs. Attractions and events.
21 W. Superior St., Ste. 100
Duluth, MN
(218) 722-4011, (800) 4-DULUTH
www.visitduluth.com

Visit Winona
Cool theater, arts and music scene, foodie bliss, outdoor recreation paradise. Surprisingly weird. Incredibly entertaining.
160 Johnson St.
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-0735
www.visitwinona.com

ZOO

International Wolf Center
Our world famous Center features daily programs, award-wining exhibits, and live ambassador wolves.
1396 Highway 169
Ely, MN 55731
218-365-4695
www.wolf.org

LAVENDER'S

FIRST THURSDAYS

BUY A DRINK. MAKE A CONNECTION. HAVE FUN.

THURSDAY

APRIL 5 • 5:30 - 8:00 PM

S&P
RESTAURANT + BAR

SMITH & PORTER RESTAURANT + BAR
428 S. 2ND ST. • MINNEAPOLIS

TWIN CITIES GLBT HAPPY HOUR

ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY HORS D'OEUVRES PLUS A CHANCE TO REGISTER TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

FEATURED NON-PROFITS: the Aliveness project · BINGO A GO GO

Representatives from The Aliveness Project will be on hand to answer your questions about Dining Out for Life on April 26th.

Representatives from Bingo A-Go-Go will be on hand to answer your questions about "Royal Wedding Bingo" coming up on April 28th.

PRESENTED BY

SMIRNOFF · Captain Morgan

10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
2017 Best Premium Cruise Line
2017 Travel Weekly Readers' Choice Awards

HORIZONS ARE BROADENED IN NAUTICAL MILES.

Discover more than 290 destinations across all seven continents, with leading-edge design at every turn, globally inspired menus crafted by our Michelin-starred chef, and seamlessly intuitive service.

It all adds up to make us "Best Large Ship Cruise Line" for LGBT travelers two years running.

Visit celebrity.com, call 1-888-283-6374, or contact your travel agent.

2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS
2016 Best Large Ship Cruise Line for LGBT Passengers
MeetMeOnboard.com Annual CRUIZIE Awards

Celebrity X Cruises®
SAIL BEYOND BORDERS

©2018 Celebrity Cruises Inc. Ships' registry: Malta and Ecuador.